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Agenda item 151

**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations**

# Letter dated 13 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

We write to you on a matter of critical importance to our Governments and to the future of the United Nations. With our support, the United Nations has embarked on a significant expansion of peacekeeping operations — including missions in Kosovo, East Timor, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo — that will double peacekeeping forces and expenditures this year. The United Nations must have the necessary monetary and personnel resources to satisfy these vital commitments. We ask your help on the specific question of finances.

The United Nations current ad hoc system for apportioning peacekeeping expenses is outmoded and in need of review and revision. This system — which was negotiated over eight days in 1973 for a single six-month peacekeeping mission in the Sinai — was never intended to operate as a long-term mechanism for determining peacekeeping contributions. It concentrates a great deal of responsibility for peacekeeping finance in a small group of Member States, and does not take into account changes in Members' financial circumstances, as well as the addition of any new Member States.

It is our strong view that the General Assembly should embark on a review process aimed at creating a more up-to-date scale, one that will provide a stronger foundation for the financing of peacekeeping operations. We propose that a review of the peacekeeping scale of assessment be discussed under agenda item 151 during the resumed session scheduled for May 2000, with a view to completing deliberations at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly this fall. We request that this be taken into account when preparations for the May resumed session are made. To promote the May deliberations, we also ask you to facilitate the timely provision of appropriate documentation from the Secretariat concerning the ad hoc

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scale. This would include an explanation of the origins and function of the scale, with references to General Assembly resolutions and other relevant documentation.

(*Signed*) Richard C. **Holbrooke**